

## AVIATION WEEK

# Defectors Termed No Threat to U.S. Codes

Washington — House investigators last week concluded in a week that the two National Security Agency defectors—Bernon E. Mitchell and William H. Martin—were not a threat to the Soviet Union in perfecting its own intelligence communications system, but not in cracking U. S. codes and ciphers.

A special House Armed Services investigating subcommittee headed by Rep. Paul Kilday (D. Tex.) reached this conclusion following executive sessions with top officials of Central Intelligence Agency and Department of Defense, including NSA, Army's G-2, Office of Naval Intelligence, and Air Force Office of Special Investigations. The subcommittee has suspended hearings to afford time for members and staff to study the record.

Rep. Kilday said, "It appears as if Mitchell and Martin are in a position to aid the Russians in making Russian intelligence more secure; they are not in possession of information which renders our own intelligence insecure. It appears at this point that our own code and cipher are still secure."

Rep. Kilday added that subcommittee members have been assured that these two traitors were engaged in work pertaining to the more efficient mathematical processing of foreign statistical data rather than work on U. S. intelligence communications.

Mitchell and Martin, who presented details on NSA monitoring of intelligence flights and on NSA organization at a Moscow press conference Sept. 6 (AW, Sept. 12, p. 37), were accepted for assignment as mathematicians to NSA's Office of Research and Develop-

ment in July, 1957, and were granted access to information classified top secret on a need-to-know basis in September, 1957. They worked in this office, one of NSA's four offices, until their defection last June.

At the international press show in Moscow, Mitchell and Martin detailed the activities of the NSA Office of Research and Development, subdivided into three branches.

- **REMP**—conducts cryptanalytical research and works on applied cryptanalytic problems without restriction as to country; provides consulting services to other divisions of NSA; carries out research in computer components.

- **RADE**—designs radio receiving and transmitting devices, radio direction finder, radio fingerprint apparatus; studies unknown communications systems.

- **STED**—studies possible weakness of cipher machines; in general assists COMSEC in the design of cipher machines for U. S. use; studies the process of enciphering speech. COMSEC—NSA's Office of Communications Security—is responsible for the production and security of U. S. cipher systems," according to Mitchell and Martin.

In addition to the subcommittee finding on the impact of the defection, Kilday made these observations after the executive sessions:

- "NSA states that at no time prior to publication in the press on May 1 was any information whatsoever relative to U-2 operations available to either Martin or Mitchell." Rep. Francis Walter (D. Pa.), chairman of the House Un-American Activities Committee, previously stated that one of the two defectors asked for information about the flight of the Lockheed U-2 reconnaissance plane before it was downed near Sverdlovsk, USSR, last May 1, but he did not state whether the defector received the information before that date.

- "From an examination of information in the possession of NSA at the time of the employment of Mitchell and Martin, it is my personal view that neither should have been employed in a sensitive agency. That information showed them to be unstable, even though specific acts of culpability were lacking." The information was based on investigations of both defectors by naval intelligence in connection with their employment as naval cryptologists in Japan from 1952-54, investigation of Martin by naval intelligence in connection with his 1957 NSA employment, and investigation of Mitchell by Air Force intelligence for NSA employment in the same year. The information was furnished by NSA.

Reporting that when the "parting statement" of Mitchell and Martin was disclosed in a Maryland bank deposit box early in August he urged Deputy Secretary of Defense James Douglas to release it, Kilday commented, "It was a mistake to conceal the statement. This gave the Russians a propaganda advantage in its release by them."

## NSA Organization

In addition to the Office of Research and Development and the office of communications security (COMSEC), the two main divisions of NSA are the Office of Production and the Office of Security. The latter is responsible for NSA personnel. Mitchell and Martin detailed the activities of the Office of Production which they said receives intercept material from the out-stations as follows:

- **ADVA**—studies high level Soviet cipher systems and diplomatic codes.

- **GENS**—studies Soviet military code systems and medium level cipher system.

- **ACOM**—studies the code and cipher systems of Asian Communist nations.

- **ALIO**—studies the code and cipher systems of U. S. allies, neutral nations and some Communist nations.

- **MPRO**—provides electronic digital computing and data processing services to other divisions of NSA.

Witnesses before the Kilday Subcommittee included J. Vincent Burke, Defense Department general counsel in charge of a separate Defense investigation of the defection; USAF Gen. P. Cabell, who served as

of the Joint Chiefs of Staff before becoming deputy director of CIA in 1953; Robert Bannerman, deputy director of CIA for security; USAF Brig. Gen. Edward G. Lansdale, deputy assistant to the Secretary of Defense for special operations; Dr. Louis W. Fordella, deputy director of NSA; Maurice Klein, NSA director of personnel; and Air Maj. Gen. Richard Collins, until recently director of security mapping and combat intelligence, who will become a member of the United Nations command in Korea on Nov. 1.

## Officers Testify

Brig. Gen. Charles Leonard, deputy director of Army's security mapping and combat intelligence; Rear Adm. L. H. Frost, director of naval intelligence, who is scheduled to take over as director of NSA on Nov. 24 when Air Force Lt. Gen. John A. Sanford retires; Rear Adm. Vernon L. Lowrance, who will succeed Adm. Frost as director of naval intelligence, and Brig. Gen. John Bratt, director of USAF intelligence, also testified.